

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB1143**

---

**Hearing Date:** Monday February 09, 2026  
**Committee On:** Appropriations  
**Introducer:** Hardin  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to nursing facility rates and establish a money follows the person program under the Medical Assistance Act

---

**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

---

**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	8	Senators Clements, Armendariz, Dorn, Dover, Lippincott, Prokop, Spivey, Strommen
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>	1	Senator Cavanaugh, M.
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

---

**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Brian Hardin  
Drew Gonshorowski

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Department of Health and Human Services

**Opponents:**

Cindy Kadavy  
Heath Boddy  
  
Jay Colburn  
  
Jalene Carpenter

**Representing:**

Nebraska Healthcare Association  
Vetter Senior Living, Nebraska Health Care Association  
Nebraska Healthcare Association, Nebraska Hospital Association, York General Health Care Services  
Nebraska Health Care Association

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

---

**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 1143 amends § 68- 949 which establishes procedures for the Department of Health and Human Services pertaining to calculation of Medicaid nursing facility rates. The bill adds reference an identified dollar amount in the budget as the amount to be used in the Medicaid nursing facility rate calculation, including the calculation of the annual inflation factor. LB1143 permits DHHS to include utilization factors in calculating the rates. The bill requires DHHS to specify the dollar amount and the number of projected nursing facility days in the required report. The purpose of this change is to create flexibility for DHHS to deviate from the legislatively determined earmark for nursing facility rates.



Additionally, LB 1143 requires DHHS to submit a request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to establish a money follows the person program by December 31, 2026.

---

**Explanation of amendments:**

AM 2613 to LB 1143 strikes the original provisions of LB 1143, replacing the bill with similar language that more clearly defines how utilization may be used in calculating prospective rates and establishing a floor for average weighted Medicaid nursing facility daily rates.

As amended, the bill permits deviation from the nursing facility rate earmark only by calculating the average weighted Medicaid nursing facility rate by dividing the projected total Medicaid nursing facility expenditures by the projected total nursing facility days for the prospective rate period. The number of projected days must be reported to the Legislature.

As amended, the bill prevents the average weighted nursing facility daily rate from falling below the rate as of January 1, 2026 unless directed by the Legislature or in the event of a state of emergency declared by the Governor.

The bill as amended requires DHHS to submit a request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to establish a money follows the person program by December 31, 2026.

---

Robert Clements, Chairperson

